

# Agenda

# Veterans Affairs Commission

Monday, January 22, 2007  
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Municipal Plaza Bldg., "C" Room  
114 W. Commerce

VAC Chairman	Erik Frederick, Chair
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VAC Members:	Roy Lee, Manuel S. Perez, Bob Murdock, Richard Holgin, Daniel Delgado, Robert Robley John Rodriguez, John Richard Dickson, Karen Bennington, Stephen Joseph Spear
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VAC Liaisons:	Carmelina R. Davis, Economic Development Dept.	VAC Technical Advisor: Craig Erickson, Bexar County
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## Agenda Topics

3:00 P.M.	Call To Order	Erik Frederick, Chair
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- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Citizens to be Heard

### New Business

- III. Nomination and Election of 2007 VAC Chair and Vice-Chair
- IV. "Old Ironsides" Across the Nation Reception
- V. Other Business

### Old Business

- VI. Medal of Honor RFQ
- VII. VAC Newsletter--1<sup>st</sup> Quarter ending 3-31-07
- VIII. Bexar County/City Veterans Fair

### Adjournment

Next Meeting: 2/19/07 at 3:00 p.m.

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# COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

## Minutes

Monday, November 20, 2006, 3:00 p.m.

Municipal Plaza Bldg., "C" Room

114 W. Commerce

### ATTENDANCE

#### PRESENT

Erik Frederick, Chair  
Roy Lee, Vice Chair  
Richard Holgin  
Robert Robley  
John Richard Dickson  
Daniel Delgado  
John Rodriguez  
Karen Bennington  
Stephen Spear

#### ABSENT

Bob Murdock  
Manuel Perez

#### CITY STAFF:

Orlando Rodriguez  
James Henderson  
Carmelina R. Davis, Economic Development Department

#### OTHER AGENCIES & GUESTS:

Craig Erickson, Bexar County  
LeRoy (Roy) Green, Bexar County

#### I. Call to Order

Mr. Erik Frederick, VAC Chair, called the monthly meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

#### II. Pledge of Allegiance

Members, staff, and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### III. Citizens to be Heard

Mr. Erickson stated that there had been a Veterans Forum on November 9<sup>th</sup> at the VFW and thanked Mr. Frederick and Mr. Rodriguez for attending.

Mr. Erickson gave a report on the Purple Heart Monument unveiling on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and acknowledged Mr. Perez and Ms. Davis for attending and assisting with the City's portion of the process. Ms. Davis informed Mr. Erickson that Mr. Rodriguez was also in attendance.

Mr. Erickson mentioned that in honor of the Marine Corp birthday an 1807 U.S. Marine Exhibit was being held at the Courthouse, in the middle of the first floor, which will be there for viewing until the end of January. He mentioned that they just had their 50<sup>th</sup> burial under the Homeless Burial Program on October 25<sup>th</sup> and pending the identification of two additional veterans pending clearance from the Medical Examiner may anticipate burials on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### **IV. Introduction and Minutes**

Mr. Frederick introduced Steven Spear, the newest and last member to complete a full Commission. Mr. Spear stated that he retired from the Air Force in 1982 and from Civil Service after 20 years.

The VAC members reviewed the September 29, 2006 minutes. Mr. Holgin motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **New Business**

##### Approval of \$500 Request for Funds to the G.I. Forum, Miguel Hernandez, Jr. Memorial Chapter for the Pancho Claus Program.

Mr. Lee, Finance Chair introduced the \$500 request from the G. I. Forum and informed the VAC that the Finance Committee recommended the donation. Mr. Holgin made a motion to accept the request, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez. The motion was approved by all except for Mr. Delgado who had to abstain due to his affiliation with the organization.

#### **Old Business**

##### Medal of Honor Memorial (MOH)

Mr. James LeFlore provided a presentation to the VAC on the status of the MOH signs. He reported that Traffic Operations was under the impression that they were to await an additional step for approval from the VAC to proceed with the installation of the signs. Mr. LeFlore informed them otherwise and they proceeded with 3 overhead street signs and 8 ground street signs, which they project to place by year end. Mr. LeFlore indicated that is some type of promotional media or photo event is in the plans; Traffic Operations will want to know in advance, so that they can make accommodations.

The other issue Mr. LeFlore presented was a draft agreement of a Competition Notice for the \$50 budget set aside for the MOH. He said that they had also met with the VAC Sub-committee and spoke of meetings with the Downtown Operations Department staff, a newly created Department to address downtown issues, which replaced the Parks & Recreation participation. He indicated meeting with Colleen Swain, who was handling all of the contracts for the downtown operations district. Because they will be the lead department in the actual design and construction of the project, we will need their buy-in and need to make sure they are involved before we go out and solicit proposals. He indicated that Ms. Swain asked that the Commission bear with her, as the transition to hire new personnel continues in her Department. Mr. LaFlore stated that as the Sub-committee meets, we need to sit down with her to develop a time-table as the one initial one had to be revised.

Mr. Robley brought up making an addition to the MOH that would point to the Veterans Memorial Plaza for easier identification and direction. Mr. LeFlore said that he would

raise the point with the Architects Office to see if there are additional funds for this and will provide information to report at the next VAC meeting.

Mr. Holgin asked for the status of the MOH, and Mr. LeFlore restated that the design competition language was written, but since coordination was needed with the Downtown Operations Department, they have not yet completed reviewing the contract. Mr. LeFlore indicated that when the contract review is completed, the document would be brought to the Sub-Committee or the VAC to provide an update and present the proposed document.

With respect to media coverage for placement of the MOH signs, Mr. Frederick stated that although it was a great idea, with such a short window, it might delay the installation process. He felt that the VAC could do that afterwards, if they decided.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if the City would be placing plaques to state what the area consisted of, just as those around the other three monuments. Ms. Davis asked Mr. LeFlore if this would be part of the Master Plan and Mr. he responded that this could be requested in that fashion, but that he suggested that this be done in addition to the request for the MOH design as a separate effort to put a plaque recognizing the Plaza.

#### Holiday Care Packages for San Antonio Troops

Mr. James Henderson, EDD staff made a presentation on a request from the Military Affairs Commission to send a Holiday Care Package to San Antonio based military stationed overseas. He informed the VAC that a meeting with some of the VAC members and EDD staff met and determined that salsa and chips would be sent and a video would be created to put on the VAC Web site for troops to access. He informed the VAC that coordination was being made with local military bases. He added that in order to fund the effort, a request for funds would be made to the VAC. The VAC was informed that there was an approaching deadline of December 4<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Davis added that a huge Christmas card would also be sent.

Mr. Holgin said that he had some items that he would like to contribute.

Mr. Frederick indicated that to meet the December 4<sup>th</sup> deadline, it was necessary at this point to approve a \$500 contribution from the VAC. Mr. Holgin made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez and unanimously approved by all.

Ms. Davis informed the VAC that staff would be calling for volunteers to help with the packages.

Mr. Rodriguez said that he would ask his Councilperson if they would like to contribute funds towards this effort. The remaining Commission members agreed that they would also approach their respective Councilpersons.

#### Nominations for 2007 VAC Board of Directors

Mr. Frederick said that a Nominating Committee was needed to bring a slate of candidates recommended for Chair and Vice-Chair to the next meeting. He asked for three volunteers—Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Delgado and Mr. Lee volunteered.

### **Old Business**

### Other Business

Mr. Rodriguez asked for term limits and Ms. Davis said that she would send it to Mr. Rodriguez, who would Chair the Nominating Committee.

Mr. Holgin said that the By-Laws state the formation of the Nominating Committee in November, make the nominations and present the slate in January.

### DD214

Mr. Holgin reported on his attendance of the Civil Service Commission meeting, which was also attended by Mr. Erickson and Ms. Davis. At this meeting with was decided that copies 2, 4, 6, and 7 and 8 of the DD Form 214 would be accepted by the Commission when issuing Veteran's preference points.

### 2007 VAC Goals and Objectives

Mr. Frederick informed the VAC that the 2007 Goals and Objectives needed to be reviewed and amended, if applicable. He informed the VAC to take the information home and bring it back to the December meeting and vote on it in January.

A discussion ensued regarding the capacity of Bexar County and the City's VAC representative bodies to the veteran's community. Mr. Erickson said that their role was not as formal as the VAC's.

### Coordination for Hollar & Galvan's Burial's

Ms. Davis informed the VAC that she coordinated with the Military Bases, parents of the deceased and Casualty Officers to relay accurate information to the Mayor and Council Offices for home visits, honorary events and funeral attendance and provides speeches and necessary information for all parties involved. She indicated that due to extensive coordination, the process took a full week.

Mr. Frederick said that as there is an opportunity to attend various veteran events and should be reimbursable by the VAC with the understanding to make a presentation on said event at the VAC meeting.

Mr. Holgin said that we will reimburse a VAC member for reasonable expenses and asked for a vote on the subject. Mr. Robley made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Holgin, and unanimously approved by the VAC.

Mr. Robley stated that he had only received one e-mail from me on veteran's activities and felt that it would have good to have VAC representation. Ms. Davis informed him that during CAM, the North Chamber paid for six VAC members to attend a dinner, but since there had been a problem with Mr. Robley's e-mail.

In relation to the Celebration of America's Military (CAM) Week, Mr. Dickson asked if there was a way the Commission could better market themselves. Ms. Davis interjected that she took the Purple Heart Association to the CAM Committee Meeting held by the Greater Chamber of Commerce, so they could include the event in their schedule. She also informed the VAC that they had held events themselves in previous years as part of the event. Mr. Frederick informed the VAC that last year the VAC participated in various events and purchased promotional material—table-top display, purchased cozies, etc.,

and had a stand at the air show. He informed the VAC that he and Mr. Erickson discussed the idea about approaching the Chamber to participate with the County in the CAM to have a Veterans Fair providing veteran's resources and promoted as a joint effort. Mr. Holgin asked that one of the VAC members attend the CAM meetings and to which Mr. Dickson volunteered. Ms. Davis suggested that the VAC inform Mr. Bill Mock at the Chamber of their intent now in advance of the next year's CAM event.

There was a motion by Mr. Dickson to get involved in the CAM activities next year. Mr. Robley added that they should get involved in all types of events and not just the CAM. Mr. Frederick stated that based on his past experience, he noted that members were not as prone to attend functions, when it came to weekend activities, so he wanted the VAC to know what would be expected. Mr. Dickson made a motion to get the VAC more involved, which was seconded by Holgin and unanimously approved.

Mr. Dickson brought up the possibility of the VAC being involved in the parade next year. Mr. Frederick discussed the parade that he was involved in and suggested to get more VAC members involved. Mr. Frederick indicated that they can obtain a vehicle from the base next year and have more members participate.

Mr. Frederick indicated that he attended the Veterans Forum and stated that the Hazelwood Act would be reintroduced in January 2007 by Senator Uresti.

The new VA clinic is scheduled to open on December 4<sup>th</sup> (281 & 1604). The National Cemetery acquired 170 new acres of land, which would make 107,000 new grave sites available.

Mr. Frederick stated that the next meeting would be on December 15<sup>th</sup> for the meeting and Annual Christmas luncheon thereafter at Giovanni's.

Mr. Robley said that he would like to participate in more events. Mr. Frederick said that if members become aware of various events that transpire in the community they should bring the information to the VAC meetings to share with other VAC members. Ms. Davis said that as she gets information, she forwards them to the VAC members.

Mr. Frederick asked if they want to participate in the Bexar County's meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> to start discussions.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Holgin made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Robley. The motion was unanimously approved.

# COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

## Minutes

Monday, December 8, 2006, 10:00 a.m.

Municipal Plaza Bldg., "C" Room

114 W. Commerce

### ATTENDANCE

#### PRESENT

Roy Lee, Vice Chair  
Richard Holgin  
Robert Robley  
Daniel Delgado  
John Rodriguez  
Karen Bennington  
Stephen Spear  
Bob Murdock  
Manuel Perez  
Bob Murdock  
Manuel Perez

#### ABSENT

Erik Frederick, Chair  
John Richard Dickson

### CITY STAFF:

James Henderson  
Orlando Rodriguez

### OTHER AGENCIES & GUESTS:

None

#### I. Call to Order

Mr. Roy Lee, VAC Vice-Chair, called the monthly meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

#### II. Pledge of Allegiance

Members, staff, and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### III. Citizens to be Heard

None

#### IV. New Business

Rescind Resolution No. 2006-009 in the amount of \$5,000 approved by the VAC on August 21, 2006 deposited in the South Texas Business Fund account for the benefit of the Medal of Honor Memorial and Approval of \$5,000 Request for Funds for Holiday Care Packages and Gift Certificates for San Antonio Troops serving overseas.



Based on Mr. James Henderson previous presentation to the VAC Finance Committee requesting a contribution of \$5,000 from the VAC for Holiday Care Packages to San Antonio Troops serving overseas, Mr. Murdock made a motion to Rescind Resolution No. 2006-009 in the amount of \$5,000 approved by the VAC on August 21, 2006 for the Medal of Honor Memorial and reissue funds to offset the costs involved to send said packages to the San Antonio troops. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holgin, and approved unanimously by the VAC.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Holgin made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Robley. The motion was unanimously approved.